

A-99-03  
III-A-1

conspicuously placing or causing to be engraved, cast, stamped (impressed) or placed on the frame or receiver thereof an individual serial number. The serial number must be placed in a manner not susceptible of being readily obliterated, altered, or removed, and must not duplicate any serial number placed by you on any other firearm. For firearms manufactured on and after [insert effective date of final rule], the engraving, casting, or stamping (impressing) of the serial number must be to a minimum depth of .005 inch and in a print size no smaller than 3/32 inch; and

(2) By engraving, casting, stamping (impressing), or otherwise conspicuously placing or causing to be engraved, cast, stamped (impressed), or placed on the frame, receiver, or barrel thereof certain additional information. This information must be placed in a manner not susceptible of being readily obliterated, altered or removed. For firearms manufactured on and after [Insert effective date of final rule], the engraving, casting, or stamping (impressing) of this information must be to a minimum depth of .005 inch. The additional information includes:

(i) The model, if such designation has been made;

(ii) The caliber or gauge;

(iii) Your name (or recognized abbreviation) and also, when applicable, the name of the foreign manufacturer or maker;

(iv) In the case of a domestically made firearm, the city and State (or recognized abbreviation thereof) where you as the manufacturer maintain your place of business, or where you, as the maker, made the firearm; and

(v) In the case of an imported firearm, the name of the country in which it was manufactured and the city and State (or recognized abbreviation thereof) where you as the importer maintain your place of business.

(b) The Director may authorize other means of identification upon receipt of a letter application from you, submitted in duplicate, showing that such other identification is reasonable and will not hinder the effective administration of this part.

(c) In the case of a destructive device, the Director may authorize other means of identifying that weapon upon receipt of a letter application you, submitted in duplicate, showing that engraving, casting, or stamping (impressing) such a weapon would be dangerous or impracticable.

(d) A firearm frame or receiver that is not a component part of a complete weapon at the time it is sold, shipped,

or otherwise disposed of by you must be identified as required by this section.

(e)(1) Any part defined as a machine gun, muffler, or silencer for the purposes of this part that is not a component part of a complete firearm at the time it is sold, shipped, or otherwise disposed of by you must be identified as required by this section.

(2) The Director may authorize other means of identification of parts defined as machine guns other than frames or receivers and parts defined as mufflers or silencers upon receipt of a letter application from you, submitted in duplicate, showing that such other identification is reasonable and will not hinder the effective administration of this part.

Signed: April 12, 1999.

John W. Magaw,  
Director.

Approved: June 4, 1999.

Dennis M. O'Connell, EPA AIR DOCKET  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary,  
(Regulatory, Tariff and Trade Enforcement).  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### 40 CFR Part 63

[Docket No. A-99-03; FRL-6364-8]

### Hazardous Air Pollutants List

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of receipt of a complete petition to delist methyl ethyl ketone from the list of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs).

SUMMARY: This notice announces the receipt of a complete petition from the Chemical Manufacturers Association's (CMA'S) Ketone Panel requesting EPA to remove the chemical methyl ethyl ketone (MEK, 2-Butanone) (CAS No. 78-93-3) from the list of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) contained in section 112(b)(1) of the 1990 Clean Air Act (Act). We have determined that the Chemical Manufacturers Association's original petition dated November 27, 1996 and the supplemental materials provided by CMA through August 31, 1998 will support an assessment of the human health impacts associated with people living in the vicinity of facilities emitting methyl ethyl ketone. In addition, the data submitted by CMA will support an assessment of the environmental impacts associated with emissions of methyl ethyl ketone to the ambient air and deposited onto soil or

water. Consequently, we have concluded that CMA's petition is complete as of August 31, 1998, the date of the last supplement, and is ready for public comment and the technical review phase of our delisting procedure.

This notice invites the public to comment on the petition and to provide additional data, beyond that filed in the petition, on sources, emissions, exposure, health effects and environmental impacts associated with methyl ethyl ketone that may be relevant to our technical review.

DATES: Written comments on this proposal must be received by July 23, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Documents. A copy of the complete petition is contained in a docket available at the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Office, 401 M Street S.W., Room M-1500 (Mail Code 6102), Waterside Mall, Washington DC 20460. The docket number for this action is A-99-03. The docket is an organized file of all the information received and considered in making the decision on the completeness of CMA's petition. The main purpose of the docket is to allow you to readily identify and locate documents that record the process we followed in making our decision. You may inspect the petition and copy it for offsite review between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. E.S.T., Monday through Friday. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying. In addition, CMA will make copies of the petition available upon request. You may call Mr. Andrew Jakes at CMA's help line at (703) 741-5627 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday, for information on how to obtain a copy of the petition. A reasonable fee may be charged for copying.

Data Submissions. Comments and additional data should be submitted (in duplicate if possible) to: The Docket Clerk, Air and Radiation Docket and Information Office, 401 M Street S.W., Room M-1500 (Mail Code 6102), Waterside Mall, Washington DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James B. White, Emission Standards Division (MD-13), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711, telephone (919) 541-0842, electronic mail address: White.James@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Plain Language. In compliance with President Clinton's June 1, 1998 Executive Memorandum on Plain Language in Government Writing, this package is written using plain language. Therefore,

effects that may result from exposure to various chemicals in the environment.

(D) Estimated emissions of methyl ethyl ketone derived from the most recent version of the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI). The TRI is an emissions inventory database developed under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986.

(E) Tiered air dispersion modeling that provides estimates of the ambient concentration of methyl ethyl ketone adjacent to those facilities that use it. Tiered modeling involves the use of successive modeling techniques to move from conservative "worst case" estimates of the ambient concentrations of a substance emitted from a source toward more realistic site-specific estimates of the ambient concentrations.

(F) Characterization of the exposures and risks from methyl ethyl ketone to human health and the environment.

(G) Documentation of a literature search on methyl ethyl ketone conducted immediately prior to the filing of the petition. This includes an identification of the data bases searched, the search strategy, and printed results.

(H) Printed copies of all human, animal, in vitro, or other toxicity studies cited in the literature search.

(I) Environmental effects data characterizing the fate of methyl ethyl ketone emitted to the atmosphere. This includes atmospheric residence time, solubility, phase distribution, vapor pressure, octanol/water partition coefficients, particle size, adsorption coefficients, information on atmospheric transformations, potential degradation or transformation products, and bio-accumulation potential.

(J) Other relevant considerations, such as CMA's petition to delist methyl ethyl ketone under EPCRA section 313.

(K) List of all support documents in the petition.

At the time of the petition, only three companies: Exxon Chemical Company, Hoechst Celanese, and Shell Chemical, produced methyl ethyl ketone. The estimated total domestic capacity in 1995 was approximately 595 million pounds. The 1994 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) shows that over 2,300 facilities reported emissions associated with the use of methyl ethyl ketone and that 85 percent of these facilities reported emissions of less than 25 tons per year.

The petition describes methyl ethyl ketone as being both a solvent and chemical intermediate. When used as a solvent, it is highly efficient for dissolving a wide variety of resins. Therefore, it is widely used in surface coatings, adhesives, inks, and traffic marking paints. Methyl ethyl ketone is also used as a solvent in cleaning fluids and dewaxing agents, and in the extraction of fats, oils, waxes, and resins. It is especially valuable in the formulation of high-solids coatings which are being used to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from many types of coatings. Methyl ethyl ketone is reported to occur naturally as an emission from plants such as European firs, junipers, cedars, cypress trees, and ferns. It has also been identified as a natural component of several foods.

Based on an analysis of the TRI, the petition states that inhalation is the only significant route of human exposure to methyl ethyl ketone emissions. Using the most recent TRI data as input in a tiered air dispersion modeling approach, the petition develops estimates of the maximum annual and 24-hour concentrations anticipated to occur at the boundaries of facilities known to emit methyl ethyl ketone. The petition compares the output from the air models and available IRIS health

data to conclude that, given the low concentrations anticipated to occur at the facility boundaries, methyl ethyl ketone cannot reasonably be anticipated to cause either acute or chronic adverse health effects to people living nearby these facilities.

This conclusion is based on methyl ethyl ketone's relatively low toxicity, the estimated low ambient concentrations, and a proposed revision of the IRIS RfC for methyl ethyl ketone. The proposed revision increases methyl ethyl ketone's RfC from 1.0 mg/m<sup>3</sup> to 3.3 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. The proposal is based on guidelines published by EPA in 1994 (EPA Office of Research and Development, "Methods for the Derivation of Inhalation Reference Concentrations and Application of Inhalation Dosimetry," EPA No. 600/8-90/066F (October 1994)). This proposed RfC and the assumptions underlying its derivation will be evaluated during our technical review.

The petition also uses a fugacity model to demonstrate that methyl ethyl ketone tends to remain in the air rather than to accumulate in water or on soil. Data is provided to support the position that in the concentrations expected to occur in the environment, methyl ethyl ketone is non-toxic to plants and animals. It is readily degradable through natural process and does not tend to accumulate in living organism. Based on the lack of toxicity and the limited persistence in the environment, the petition concludes that methyl ethyl ketone does not pose a significant adverse effect to the environment.

Dated: June 14, 1999.

**Robert D. Brenner,**  
*Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.*

[FR Doc. 99-15981 Filed 6-22-99; 8:45 am]

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